

available items;

a first-tier [electronic market] providing a first participant access to the inventory of one or more items in the data repository, the inventory being offered to the first participant under a first pricing scheme; and

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C. 1. a second-tier [electronic market] providing a second participant, different from the first participant, access to the inventory of one or more items in the data repository, the inventory being offered to the second participant under a second pricing scheme different from the first pricing scheme.

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47. (Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the first-tier [electronic market] comprises one or both of a business-to-consumer electronic auction and a consumer-to-consumer electronic auction [market] and the second-tier [electronic market] comprises a business-to-business electronic auction [market].

52 14 59. (Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the first-tier [electronic market] and the second-tier [electronic market] share the data repository.

53 18 63. (Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the second participant has privileges, unavailable to the first participant, that enable the second participant to access the second-tier [electronic market].

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20 65. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ wherein the first-tier and second-tier [electronic markets] are implemented on a same computer system.

21 66. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ wherein the first-tier and second-tier [electronic markets] are implemented on separate computer systems interconnected by a network.

22 67. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ wherein the two-tiered electronic auction [market] system is implemented on a [market maker] computer system that also hosts an electronic market system.

23 68. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ further comprising a process that determines whether a participant is granted access to the first-tier [electronic market] or the second-tier [electronic market].

24 69. (Amended) The system of claim ~~68~~²³ wherein the process comprises a login process that grants the participant access to the second-tier [electronic market] if the participant has been pre-approved.

25 70. (Amended) The system of claim ~~69~~²⁴ wherein the login process determines that the participant is pre-approved to access the second-tier [electronic market] if the

participant enters a predetermined login ID or password or both.

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71. (Amended) A computer-implemented method of facilitating commercial transactions by providing a two-tiered electronic auction [market], the method comprising:

maintaining a first-tier electronic auction [market] at a [market maker] computer system, the first electronic auction [market] comprising items offered to consumer participants under a retail pricing scheme;

maintaining a second-tier electronic auction [market] at the [market maker] computer system, the second electronic auction [market] comprising items offered to dealer participants under a wholesale pricing scheme; and

linking the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets] through a data repository having data records that [uniquely] represent items concurrently available in both of the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets].

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72. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁶ wherein linking the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets] comprises maintaining [storing in the data repository] a predetermined fixed rate that determines a price differential between the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets].

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73. (Amended) The method of claim 72²⁶ wherein the predetermined price differential is established by one or more dealer participants in the second-tier electronic

auction [market].

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74. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁶ wherein linking the first-tier and the second-tier electronic auctions [markets] comprises maintaining [storing in the data repository] a price differential between the first-tier and the second-tier [electronic markets], the price differential being established on an item-by-item basis by one or more dealer participants in the second-tier electronic auction [market].

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75. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁴ further comprising facilitating a financial transaction in the first-tier electronic auction [market] between a consumer participant and a dealer participant, the transaction having finality of transaction.

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76. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁴ further comprising facilitating a financial transaction in the second-tier electronic auction [market] between a first dealer participant and another dealer participant, the transaction having finality of transaction.

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77. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁴ further comprising facilitating a transaction in the first electronic auction [market] between a consumer participant and a dealer participant, the transaction transferring a legally cognizable interest from the dealer participant to the consumer participant.

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7/8. (Amended) The method of claim 7/1 further comprising facilitating a transaction in the second electronic auction [market] between a first dealer participant and another dealer participant, the transaction transferring a legally cognizable interest from the first dealer participant to the other dealer participant.

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7/9. (Amended) The method of claim 7/1 further comprising:
receiving payment information from at least one participant in the first or second electronic auction [market], the received payment information being associated with a transaction at the first or second electronic auction [market];
processing the received payment information; and
transferring an ownership interest in an item to the at least one participant.

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90. (Amended) A system for facilitating electronic commerce transactions among participants in an electronic auction using [over] a data packet network, the system comprising:
a first data storage location for storing information relating to [describing] an item for auction, the stored information indicating [sale, the first data storage location including] at least one of a retail price term for a retail-tier participant and a wholesale price term for a wholesale-tier participant;

a second data storage location for storing a user identification identifying a participant as either a retail-tier participant or a wholesale-tier participant; and

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